

Harold S. Taniguchi

Harold S. Taniguchi is director of the King County Department of Transportation. King County, in Washington state, has more than 1.8 million residents and is the 14th most populous county in the nation. At more than 2,000 square miles, King County is nearly twice as large as the average county in the United States.

Mr. Taniguchi oversees the Department of Transportation's five divisions:

- Metro Transit, which provides a broad range of innovative transportation services and is among the 10 largest bus systems in the nation and one of the fastest growing;
- Road Services, which maintains nearly 2,000 miles of roads and 259 bridges;
- King County International Airport, one of the nation's busiest general-aviation airports;
- Fleet Administration, which manages government vehicles and supplies and is a leader in using hybrid cars and trucks;
- Marine Services, a new division that manages two King County Water Taxi routes.

Under the leadership of Mr. Taniguchi and the King County Executive, the department has taken ground-breaking approaches to improving transportation in ways that help communities and the environment thrive. Accomplishments include expanding transit services, becoming the first agency in the nation to invest in articulated hybrid diesel-electric buses, developing Intelligent Transportation Systems for county roadways, connecting land-use and transportation policies to improve the environment and quality of life, and leading the adoption of clean fuels and vehicles for government fleets. King County is one of three agencies in the Lake Washington Urban Partnership project, a plan to employ variable tolling, transit, traffic management technologies and telecommuting to improve mobility, help finance replacement of the State Route 520 bridge, and reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. Mr. Taniguchi was one of the co-leaders in the planning process for replacement of the downtown Seattle portion of the Alaskan Way Viaduct, which resulted in an agreement to construct a bored tunnel along with increased transit services.

Mr. Taniguchi became the department director in 2002 and has worked in King County since 1983. He is a member of the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board, which funds high-priority transportation projects in communities throughout the state to enhance the movement of people, goods and services. Mr. Taniguchi also is active in community affairs. He graduated from Pomona College and has a Masters degree in Public Affairs from the University of Washington.